

Residents of Mason flooded the newspaper office with letters about French's good works, after the staff solicited nominations from the community this spring.

"All of Mary Lou's work in this community bears out her legacy," wrote Rex Hauser.

Others cited her willingness to reach out and help whenever it's needed.

"She is well known in the community and a person who people look to when no one else would take on a job," stated Cherie Mitchell. "Someone could say, 'Oh, let Mary Lou do it!' and it would get done."

Rachel Tear, office manager at the Presbyterian Church wrote that French's volunteer work within the congregation propels many activities forward. "Our church activities would come to a grinding halt if Mary Lou ever quit, so we would like your help in showing her how much we appreciate all that she does."

Among French's work with the church is her involvement in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Thanksgiving and spring pie sales aimed at raising money for the annual Relay for Life efforts.

French is also a member of the unofficial 'Flower Power Group' that maintains flower beds at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. When the fair is open, French is often in charge of exhibits.

Mary Lou extends herself to the limit," wrote Marie Wingo. "If you ever needed anything she would be the first to step up and help."

But French said volunteering as been as good to her as it has to the community.

"It's just personally very satisfying and I've gained a lot of good friends and people I've learned to love because of it," she said.

On Tuesday, May 10, newspaper staff and community members will honor French with a luncheon at Mason City Hall.

Still, those who know her understand that French isn't accustomed to or comfortable with the spotlight.

"The only 'down side' to this nomination may be Mary Lou's humble acceptance that she has not been honored before," wrote Hauser. "Her reward has been precisely only in the 'doing for others,' I am sure, from her point of view."

French said she is grateful for the recognition but would rather not accept it.

"There are so many other people who do so much work," she said. "I feel very honored that I am getting it but that's not why I volunteer."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mary Lou French for her commitment to serving the community. We are honored to support her efforts and extend appreciation for her tireless community volunteer outreach. Mary Lou French is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUSAN DAWSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Susan Dawson, who teaches at Specht Elementary School in the Comal Independent School District.

Today's teachers not only serve as educators but also as friends and sometimes even role-models to their students. Susan Dawson

is one of those teachers. Not only does she present the mere "textbook" information but she treats her students as if they were family. Ms. Dawson realizes that students are unique and because of this they require different approaches to being taught. This methodology of universal teaching has made Ms. Dawson the successful teacher she is today.

Receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos, Ms. Dawson has accompanied her degrees with 9 years of experience in the classroom to establish a greater understanding of what students need from their teachers.

It is for this commitment that she has proved herself to be an invaluable asset to the students of Comal County, and it is with great honor that I recognize her here today.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BORTHWICK AND EDWARD BOYLE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association in paying tribute to two of the Kansas City metropolitan area attorneys of distinction, James Borthwick and Edward Boyle. Today the Bar Association is presenting them with its Deans of the Trial Bar Award at their Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. Both of these gentlemen are longtime leaders of both the Kansas City metropolitan area's bar and of their home communities.

James (Jim) Borthwick is a partner with the firm of Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP, of Kansas City, Missouri. A magna cum laude graduate of Central College with a J.D. from the University of Michigan, he joined the Blackwell firm as an associate in 1964. With a practice focused on litigation in the areas of business and commercial activity, insurance and intellectual property, Jim defended accounting firms against claims of professional liability and manufacturers against products liability claims. He has handled more than 75 accountant and lawyer malpractice cases to conclusion over the last 20 years and was lead trial counsel in defense of a suit by the Resolution Trust Corporation/Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation against the former directors of Franklin Savings Association; the jury verdict for the defendant was described as one of the biggest defense wins of 1996 by the National Law Journal.

Just as importantly, Jim Borthwick has been active in a wide variety of community and charitable organizations, including: the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of Art, the Friends of the Zoo, the Johnson County Democratic Party, the State Committee of the Kansas Democratic Party, Kansas City Consensus, United Community Services of Johnson County, and the Village Presbyterian Church. Professionally, he is affiliated with: the American Bar Association and its Tort and Insurance Practice Section, the Defense Research Institute, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, and the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, where he has served on the Board of Directors and as President.

Edward Boyle is of counsel with the firm of McCormick, Adam & Long, of Overland Park, Kansas. A magna cum laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame and an Order of the Coif graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law, where he was editor in chief of the University of Kansas Law Review, Edward Boyle also served as LTJG in the United States Navy from 1960–62. His practice areas include: complex litigation, land use and zoning, medical malpractice, medical products and devices, wrongful death and motor vehicle accidents. Prior to entering private practice, he served as Special Assistant Attorney General of Kansas for Antitrust from 1971–74.

Edward Boyle also has been actively involved in professional activities, serving as secretary of the Kansas State Board of Discipline for Attorneys from 1978–80, member of the Johnson County, Kansas and American Bar Associations (including as secretary of the Johnson County Bar in 1967), the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association and the Kansas Inns of Court.

Mr. Speaker, both of these distinguished gentlemen reflect creditably upon their profession and their communities. I am pleased to take note of the honors they are being awarded by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and I commend them to you and to our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF MALAKOFF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the citizens of Malakoff, Texas, on their Sesquicentennial celebration on April 30, 2005. For the last 150 years, Malakoff has been home to fine families and a wonderful community rich in the traditions of East Texas.

According to the Handbook of Texas, the area we now know as Malakoff was first settled by Jane Irvine, a widow from Alabama, who immigrated with her family to the area before 1835. Once settled in Texas, they built a gristmill on Caney Creek, and a small community grew up around the mill. In 1852 the name was changed to Mitcham Chapel after a Methodist church of the same name organized by the Rev. Hezekiah Mitcham.

Around 1855 the city fathers applied for a post office under the suggested names of Mitcham or Purdon. Both names had already been used. The Postmaster, who had been reading about the Crimean War, suggested the name Malakoff, after a Russian town that had gained prominence during the war.

Since that time, Malakoff has grown, but it has always maintained its small town East Texas roots. Lying at the gateway of East Texas, Malakoff boasts award-winning schools and plays host to the annual Malakoff Cornbread Festival.

During their Sesquicentennial celebration this year, the citizens of Malakoff can be proud of their past and optimistic about their future. As Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, it is a privilege to represent them in the United States House of Representatives. On

this important occasion, I would like to extend my best wishes to the citizens of Malakoff and offer my heartfelt prayers for continued prosperity and success over the next 150 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on April 27, 2005, in order to attend to a family matter, I was unable to vote on rollcall no. 145. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 241, a resolution to reverse the harmful and inappropriate changes that were made to House ethics rules by H. Res. 5. I voted against H. Res. 5 which changed House ethics rules when it came to the Floor on January 4, 2005 and the overwhelming approval of H. Res. 241 only underscores that the changes in H. Res. 5 were overreaching by the majority party.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S WORKERS ACT OF 2005

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, April 28th is Worker Memorial Day, designated as a time to honor the thousands of American workers killed on the job every year by willful or negligent safety violations on the part of errant employers. The surviving family members of workers killed by corporate wrongdoing deserve much more than just our sympathy, however. They deserve immediate Congressional attention and action. Today, I am very pleased to join with Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY in introducing legislation that promises such essential action by strengthening provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act. The bill—"Protecting America's Workers Act"—would hold those who commit corporate manslaughter accountable at the same time that it reinforces critical health and safety protections for workers nationwide.

Even by conservative estimates, an American worker is killed on the job every 96 minutes. We read about these deaths in newspapers from the District of Columbia to Washington state. Only last month, for example, 15 workers were killed by a fiery explosion in a British Petroleum (BP) oil refinery in Texas City, Texas. Every year in New York City, construction workers are killed by free-falls from buildings and collapses of faulty scaffolds and concrete walls. Near Toledo, Ohio last year, 4 ironworkers died in the collapse of a massive bridge crane and 4 others were injured. And almost 6 months ago in Walnut Creek, California, a gas pipeline explosion killed 5 workers and badly injured 4 others.

In the words of a New York State Supreme Court Justice, these worker deaths were not simply "random accidents" but rather "tragic certainties." The workers died as the direct result of some employer's willful safety violations or serious negligence. All too often—and in the worker death cases listed above—employ-

ers responsible for these fatalities are repeat safety violators. In some cases, multiple workers in the same firm may die in identical circumstances over a period of years, without the responsible employer ever facing stiff criminal penalties or any prison sentence.

Under the current OSH Act, the maximum penalty any employer can receive for causing the death of a worker is 6 months in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Unlike surviving relatives of other crime victims, family members of workers killed on the job are left without any victims' services or assistance under current law. They even lack a voice in any Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) investigations of their loved ones' deaths as well as subsequent negotiations with culpable employers over any downgrading of initial citations and fines tied to the worker fatalities.

By stiffening criminal penalties for those found guilty of blatant safety violations that result in worker deaths, this bill will make other employers think twice about ignoring basic health and safety rules that risk workers' lives. It incorporates in its entirety the provisions of my bill, the "Workplace Wrongful Death Accountability Act," which makes it a felony offense to kill a worker and provides for a term of up to 10 years in prison. For a second offense, the maximum term for a culpable employer would be 20 years in prison. Likewise, maximum penalties for illicitly warning of an OSHA inspection or lying to OSHA would be set appropriately to serve a deterrent purpose. Under this bill, civil penalties are also set in accordance with the time-honored principle of deterrence.

The "Protecting America's Workers Act" would also extend OSHA coverage to millions of workers who currently lack the protection of workplace safety and health laws. Among others, these include public employees in a number of states and localities, certain transportation workers such as flight attendants, and a number of federal workers as well as those in public/private entities such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Moreover, it provides stronger protections for any worker who reports the safety and health violations of an errant employer.

This bill requires OSHA to investigate any workplace incident that results in the death of a worker or the hospitalization of 2 or more employees. At the same time, it gives surviving family members of workers who are killed greater participation rights in OSHA's workplace investigation and "penalty negotiation" process with the respective employers responsible for these fatalities. Moreover, it prohibits OSHA from downgrading willful citations in worker fatalities to "unclassified" ones. Last but not least, the bill strengthens workplace prevention efforts by requiring employers to cover the costs of personal protective equipment for their employees.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the New York Committee on Safety and Health (NYCOSH), joined by like committees in the other 49 states, for launching a national campaign against corporate killing. This grassroots campaign will alert workers and the wider public about the importance of ensuring employers do not place profits above basic safety measures at the expense of workers' very health and lives.

As senior Democrat on the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I want to recognize a number of my colleagues, including Rep-

resentatives MILLER, ANDREWS, LYNCH, DELAURO, and MICHAUD who have joined me as original cosponsors of the "Protecting America's Workers Act." Representative MILLER's 30-year track record of support for workers, as well as his role as senior Democrat on the Education and Workforce Committee is well known. Representative ANDREWS, senior Democrat on the Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee is also author of a separate bill to extend OSHA protections to those state and local government workers who lack coverage by workplace safety laws. His bill is included in its entirety as a provision in the comprehensive bill we are sponsoring today. As a co-chair of the Labor Caucus in the House, Representative LYNCH is dedicated to protecting workers across the country. Through her actions on the House Appropriations Committee, Representative DELAURO has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring worker health and safety. And, by serving as a co-chair of the House Labor Caucus, Representative MICHAUD has also shown his dedication to workers' well-being. I thank them all for their cosponsorship and urge other members of the House to join with us in endorsing this legislation, critical to the well-being of America's working families.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the time for the "Protecting America's Workers Act" is now. Although we have made substantial progress in protecting health and safety in American workplaces since the OSH Act was first passed in 1970, that progress has stalled precipitously under the current Bush Administration and the Republican Congress. We must reverse this setback to workplace safety and enact this bill without delay.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Regina Neely, Kate Russey, and Charles Sanford, the Navarro Independent School District Teachers of the Year.

Charles Sanford is the librarian at Navarro Elementary School. He holds both a Bachelors of Arts from Texas State University and a Master of Science from the University of North Texas. He has previously taught third grade reading at Navarro Elementary, and is committed to childhood literacy and to introducing all of his students to the joy of reading.

Kate Russey is the choir teacher and band director at Navarro Middle School. She graduated from Texas Lutheran University, and has been teaching at Navarro for three years. She is a critical part of Navarro's music program, and goes above and beyond her work at the middle school to serve as assistant band director for Navarro High School.

Regina Neely is an English teacher at Navarro High School. She holds a Bachelors of Art from Texas Lutheran University, and previously taught in the Seguin, Hayes, and San Marcos School Districts. She has been at Navarro for four years, and has been a tremendous resource for her 2 students, giving